

3rd February 1925]

VII

ACT ASSENTED TO BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

The hon. the President announced that the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act which was passed by the Council received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General on 29th December 1924.

VIII

ACT ASSENTED TO BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

The hon. the President announced to the Council that the Madras Survey and Boundaries Act received the assent of His Excellency the Governor on the 3rd January 1925.

IX

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

The Secretary laid on the table—

^a (1) Proceedings of the ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth meetings of the Finance Committee for 1924-25 held on 2nd December 1924, and on 6th, 7th and 8th January 1925, respectively.

^b (2) G.O. No. 2001, Development, dated 21st November 1924, recording the audit report of the Kerala Soap Institute for 1923-24.

^c (3) G.O. No. 2002, Development, dated 21st November 1924, recording the accounts of the Fruit Preserving Institute for the year ending 31st March 1924.

^d (4) G.O. No. 2044, Development, dated 28th November 1924, recording the audit report and accounts of Fisheries—Cannery for nine months ending 31st March 1924.

^e (5) G.O. No. 2063, Development, dated 3rd December 1924, recording the audit report of the Government Industrial Institute, Madras, for 1923-24.

^f (6) G.O. No. 2131, Development, dated 15th December 1924, recording the audit report of the Fruit Preserving Institute for the quarter ending 30th June 1924.

X

HOUSE COMMITTEE.

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I beg to move the motion that stands in my name which reads thus :

‘ That with a view to appoint a House Committee in pursuance of Standing Order No. 80 this Council do proceed to elect six Members to be Members of the said Committee according to the principle of proportionate representation by means of the single transferable vote. ’ ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ I second it.”

Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU :—“ Mr. President, I suggest that this motion be deferred to some other day. My reasons are that this House Committee was not able to do anything in the past. I may

^a Printed as Appendix III (1) on pages 77-112 infra.

^b	“	III (2)	“	112-129	“
^c	“	III (3)	“	129-139	“
^d	“	III (4)	“	139-149	“
^e	“	III (5)	“	149-157	“
^f	“	III (6)	“	157-162	“

[Mr. P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu] [5rd February 1925]

say that so long as we are not furnished with sufficient funds to put things right we can do nothing. There are very many defects which this House Committee is expected to rectify. We brought several suggestions to the notice of Members of Government to redress our grievances but nothing could be done because they said they had no money. What I suggest by this request is that until we are able to find out what amount is allotted at the next budget this question be deferred."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"I beg to second the proposal. I was one of the sinners who could not do anything in the House Committee. We met only once—I do not know whose fault it is—and during that only sitting we were prolific in our suggestions, but nothing was done because there was no money. Therefore, if it is seriously intended that there should be a House Committee functioning properly and satisfactorily, I do not think there is any meaning in continuing its existence without sufficient funds. I heartily second the motion of my hon. Friend, Mr. Ethirajulu Nayudu."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"It has been moved and seconded that this question be adjourned till after the discussion of the budget."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I have very great pleasure in supporting the amendment. I am not a Member of the House Committee—that is in answer to a question that I heard. I was a Member of the House Committee in the year 1921. In that year, as also in subsequent years, the House Committee was not able to do anything substantial. I am told that the Deputy President of the Legislative Assembly is comfortably housed in a very decent and warm room, whereas the Deputy President of this Council has not a single seat outside this House. He has no establishment of his own. He has to grope about for finding a seat. I brought to the notice of the then hon. the Leader of the House (Sir Charles Todhunter), when he on a previous occasion moved for the appointment of this House Committee, that the arrangement for Indian lunch was entrusted to an Indian contractor and that the House Committee did not have any control over him. There was no linen and there was no crockery available to the Members."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Rupees 400 were given for linen and other appurtenances."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"That is a huge sum!"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I said that Rs. 400 were given for linen and other appurtenances. Is not this huge sum sufficient for linen?"

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Linen and other appurtenances I was only referring to as an illustration. There are various other things."

* What does my hon. Friend say regarding the suggestion for giving a room to the Deputy President? He has no room at present. I have referred to only one instance as an illustration. I have various other things to refer to.

3rd February 1925] [Mr. M. Krishnan Nayar]

"This magnificent sum of Rs. 400 has been sanctioned by a Government whose annual income is nearly sixteen crores. Let me only make a suggestion as a basis for the discussion and say that unless Government make a decent grant of at least Rs. 10,000 to the House Committee there is no use in appointing a committee. A very wise suggestion has been made by the hon. the Mover of this amendment that this business be adjourned till after the discussion of the budget, so that if we find that the Government do not allot a reasonable amount for this item it will be our interest and our duty to vote down several grants that Government may ask for. (Hear, hear and laughter.)

A VOICE :—"That will be a sort of non-co-operation."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The House will best serve its interests by such non-co-operation. It is an extreme measure; but it is the best and the most effective way of bringing down the Government to its knees (laughter). I am sure that this amendment of my hon. friend will appeal to all sections of the House, because it is not a matter on which differences of opinion may arise. With these few remarks I have very great pleasure in supporting this amendment."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I do not propose to offer any remarks on the merits of this motion for the simple reason that I am conscious of the many grievances which we should like to get redressed. But I wish to raise a point of order with your leave, Mr. President. Standing Order 80 says that

'there shall be appointed at the commencement of each session a House Committee to consider and advise upon all matters connected with the comfort and convenience of Members of the Council. . . .'

"The Standing Order makes it imperative on the House to appoint one such committee. We are now at the commencement of a session and the subject is properly before the House. It seems to me that it is obligatory on the part of the House to appoint a committee. Therefore I think that this motion is out of order and against the spirit of the Standing Order. It seems to me that it is not within the competence of this House to vote in favour of the amendment."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I do not propose to speak on the point of order, for it is perfectly obvious to me that it is within the power of this House to adjourn a particular item on the agenda. I do not cast any reflection on any of the Members who served on the House Committee during the last year or in the preceding years. But I must express that there is a general feeling in all parts of the House that this House Committee has not been fairly treated by Government. Time after time the difficulties experienced by the hon. Members especially those coming from the mufassal, have been placed before the Government and it seems to me idle to suggest that all these difficulties could not have been overcome. For instance, as regards the residence of the Members of the Council while they attend the meeting of the Council in Madras there was some suggestion some time back that some quarters might be obtained as near as possible to the Legislative Council where they could reside while in Madras. But that suggestion has not been given effect to. There is also the anomaly pointed out by my hon. friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, that the Deputy President has no separate accommodation for himself. Again, Sir,

[Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar] [3rd February 1925]

while we are working on the party system neither the whip on this side of the House nor the one on the other side has got a room of his own in which to transact business. Sometimes letters are addressed to me marked, 'Whip's office'. That office is somewhere in the mid air. The other side also, Sir, is, so far as I know, in the same position. We had also complaints about the seating arrangements in this House, about the necessity for improving the acoustic properties of this Chamber. I have seen the Legislative Assembly and in spite of the fact that it is of a circular form every Member sitting in the gallery and every Member in the chamber will admit that the auditory properties of the House are the best that could be obtained in this country. We have been making suggestions that the huge space which is the sepulchre of all the voices might be covered as far as possible by constructing a circular gallery all round and that the roof may be converted into a concave one as far as possible. Many other suggestions have been made regarding such matters. Some of us are going to move a resolution to the effect that a committee of this House, not merely the experts and the engineers of the Government, be appointed to consider this question and suggest remedies. Then there is the question of the caterer. For instance some of us who come here to attend the meetings of committees such as the Finance Committee have to rush up to a place two or three miles off in the middle of the day to have our refreshment and then come back. If we have caterers of our own such difficulties can be avoided. I think each and every Member of this House is in need of these creature comforts. Time after time Members of the House Committee have placed this matter before the Government and asked them for a grant of Rs. 5,000. The Finance Member or the Home Member—I do not know whether it is the Home Member who deals with this subject—or the hon. the Law Member who, I think, is in charge of this matter, or whoever is responsible for this parsimony, or whether it is all the Members on the Treasury Bench, it does not do much credit to them that we should be put to the necessity of complaining in open Council of the difficulties we suffer from. Let us adjourn the appointment of this Committee till after the budget is introduced. I do not think that the Standing Order forbids us from doing so. If some provision is not forthcoming in the budget we had better get rid of the farce of the House Committee, the whip on this side going about and getting members to serve on the Committee and the whip on the other side also doing the same. The Standing Order may be there, the ex-officio members may be there, but we shall not elect any members to the Committee. That is a matter which is perfectly within the rights of the Members of the House. I hope that Government will consider this question and make some financial arrangement in the meanwhile."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, it is perfectly true that this question is to a large extent dealt with by me, and I think it is my duty, and I owe it to the House to explain one or two matters so that they might see that there is no particular unreasonableness on my part in regard to them. Let me first deal with the question, the very important question, of securing accommodation, boarding and lodging for the mufassal Members of this House. That was a matter emphasised and rightly brought forward, if I may say so, by the hon. the Member for Chingleput. A resolution of the House Committee to that effect with the

3rd February 1925] [Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar]

addendum that if possible premises be secured within the Fort itself was transmitted to me. What happened? We could not get premises within the Fort. That, I think, is fairly demonstrable. We then circularised hon. Members on the 4th August 1924 asking for their suggestions whether they were prepared to pay anything, and what they were prepared to pay, so that we may make arrangements for them. We wanted to know what rent they were prepared to pay and for what period they would require the accommodation. In response to the circular that went out, 36 replies were received out of a House consisting of 120 members. Eighteen of those members were prepared to pay one to two rupees per day during the sitting of the Council. One member was prepared to pay Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 3. Four were prepared to pay any reasonable rent. One member was prepared to pay Rs. 3 for boarding and lodging (laughter). One member was prepared to pay Rs. 4 per day for boarding and lodging. One member was prepared to pay Rs. 10 for food, lodging, attender, barber, scavenger, conveyance, etc. (laughter). One member was prepared to pay any amount that the majority may arrive at.

"Sir, in view of the replies, does this House think it fair to say that the fault was entirely on the part of the Government? If even one-third of the Members of this House would come to certain conclusions and inform Government, then proper arrangements will be made for the quarters."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"What about the distance of the quarters from the Legislative Council?"

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Boarding?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Boarding arrangements also will have to be made. If the Members of the House Committee will consult the other Members of the House and come to definite conclusions and transmit their resolutions to the Government fortified by certain facts, Government will make the necessary arrangements. I do not wish to blame the members of the House Committee. The hon. the Member for Malabar was speaking of throwing out the budget or substantial portions of it for the tergiversations of the Government. Let me point out that we have not been oblivious to the needs of the Members, and that we have been trying to do all that we can subject to the exigencies of finance."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Were these replies placed before the House Committee?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I do not know; I cannot say. (After a pause) I am told that they were received by the House Committee."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Is it about lodging alone or does it include boarding also?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"The question of boarding is a difficult one. How many systems of boarding will have to be resorted to is a question which will have to be decided. If the House Committee will come to a decision on the matter and communicate to Government, they will do all they can. It may be that Government may be handicapped by want of funds, but please let us not judge Government or the hon. Members

[Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar] [3rd February 1925]

of the Government as though they have been obstinately refusing all that the House Committee had been asking for. That is not the idea of the Government."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Let a reasonable sum be allotted in the budget."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"If the purposes are indicated in any resolution or in the speeches now made, we shall certainly consider it."

MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"What about the other points raised?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I have got all the points raised and I shall deal with them one by one. The first is that arrangements may be made to give a separate room for the use of the hon. the Deputy President. That matter is now under consideration. The room space now available in this building is very scanty. It is a known fact that even the Secretaries to Government have to work in rooms which are not quite suitable to them. Secondly, it has been proposed that steps should be taken to improve and beautify the grass plots on either side of the Council Chamber. The Public Works Department has been ordered to do so. Then, a second water filter was asked for and that has been provided. Another resolution was that Madras Legislative Councillors may be provided with letter papers and covers embossed with the 'Royal arms' and the inscription 'Legislative Council' on payment of cost. There is a correspondence going on with the various Legislative Councils as to the system which each Council is adopting. Then there is a resolution regarding the supply of triangular mud-pots. Action is being taken on that resolution. Then it has been resolved that during the hours between 1 and 3 p.m. the restaurant keepers in the Council Chamber be not permitted to supply within the luncheon room tiffin to persons who are not Members of the Council unless introduced by a Member.

"A circular to that effect has also been issued to the caterers for Indian and European Members. Rules also have been framed to that effect. Then there is a resolution that the Government be requested to secure accommodation for the mufassal Members of the Legislative Council. There is also a request that arrangements may be made for the safe custody of bags, etc., while the Members leave the Council Chamber. Arrangements for the supply of lockers to the Members are being made so that they may place their books, etc., in them. Strangers have been asked to be excluded from the Committee rooms. That has been done. As to the question of placing Rs. 5,000 at the disposal of the House Committee for such use as they may think fit, Government will certainly place the sum at their disposal for carrying out the wishes of the committee. But Government want the details for which the sum is required. Just as the hon. House wants details with regard to the budget demands for grants by Government Members, Government also want some details as to the expenditure of this sum of Rs. 5,000. Later on, there is another resolution that Members of the Legislative Council may be supplied with good tiffin on days on which the Council meets, by making some arrangements for buying the necessary provisions, engaging cooks, and getting fresh tiffin prepared and supplied to Members. This resolution was communicated to Government.

3rd February 1925] [Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar]

3 p.m.

"This is another recommendation of the committee.

"That the Government be responsible for the supply of good tiffin to the Members of the Legislative Council on the days of Council sittings and that for this purpose a staff be provided for buying necessary provisions, engaging cooks, getting fresh tiffin prepared and supplied to Members, etc."

"It is suggested in reply that the House Committee or the Secretary, Legislative Council, may invite tenders from local hotel-keepers and impose conditions on the caterer as regards the quality, quantity, etc., of the lunch to be supplied. Later on,

'that napkins be provided for Members during lunch.'

"The reply is that this is being done. The next proposal is that no non-Member is allowed to enter the Committee room. This has been done. Next, the committee suggest that two copies of all the English dailies in Madras and of 'the Swadeshamitran' and 'the Andhrapatrika' may be placed, one set in each Committee room. They are being placed accordingly. The next proposal is that the Oriental Arts series and Sarma's portfolio of drawings be bought for the use of the Members. Next, exhaust fans should be provided in bath-rooms; small mats or carpets be provided for Muhammadan Members for use during prayers. These are all the demands by the House Committee.

"Now, Sir, I have exhausted all the demands made by the House Committee in the sense that I have read them all out. I do not want to trifle with the subject, nor do I seek to minimise the inconveniences of hon. Members. But I wish to say that if only hon. Members have a spirit of give and take, if they want the budget provision to be made, there is no doubt that the Government will be glad to allot it in the budget if they can. And it seems to me that there is no particular reason for adopting the extreme measures adumbrated in one or more of the speeches made in this House on this occasion."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"The hon. the Law Member has invited practical suggestions and he has blamed us for not having made a definite statement to the House."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I do not blame anybody, Sir. All that I say is that if suggestions are made, we shall see whether we can comply with them with due consideration for our present financial position."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"May I make a suggestion, Sir? The hon. the Law Member referred to the necessity for giving details for the allotment asked for by the Committee. We know, Sir, that very often lump allotments are made in the budgets. And now, if the hon. the Leader of the House or the hon. the Home Member undertakes to provide as a lump allotment this small sum of Rs. 5,000, I will be content."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"The first item naturally is the item of accommodation for mufassal Members. It is clearly understood between that Bench and the rest of the Members that the Government should come in to share the burden to some extent at least, and give us the necessary help to secure a decent building as near as possible to Fort St. George and make necessary arrangements, employ a permanent staff of cooks and all that as asked for in the resolution last read out by the hon. the Law

[Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar] [3rd February 1925]

Member. Secondly, as regards the stale tiffin that is now provided, it could not be avoided under our present helpless financial circumstances, the caterer brings tiffin having prepared it probably in the early hours of the morning or late in the previous afternoon; things are neither fresh nor satisfactory. The other suggestion asking that a permanent staff of cooks be engaged and that somebody should be asked to look after the purchase of provisions and seeing that Members are guaranteed freshness of tiffin not only on Council days but also on days when committees meet here, deserves consideration. As regards the question of the lockers, I am the person who was responsible for the suggestion. As they said that no separate room was available, I thought that some lockers might be provided so that hon. Members may leave voluminous books which they often bring and which are not needed till the next day. A draftsman was sent to me and I gave the plan. But I got a letter only two or three days back asking me to arrange for an ocular demonstration of the lockers. I am rather afraid that in spite of what has been said there has not been that readiness to meet our demands. Without any further remarks, I wish to urge that provision should be made for a lump allotment the minimum of which has been indicated by the Committee of which I was a member, namely, Rs. 5,000. I hope the hon. Members on the Bench opposite will be agreeable to the suggestion."

Mr. B. VENKATARATNAM spoke in Telugu. He said that if the hon. Members of Government could give definitely the expenses towards boarding arrangements, individual Members of the Council would be able to decide one way or the other and that there was no use in ascertaining their views without definite data.

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I do not know, Sir, whether my hon. Friend below the gangway presses his motion for adjournment or not. If he does, may I be permitted to point out that the adjournment motion is not going in the least to achieve the object which my hon. Friend has in view. As has been pointed out, the Standing Order lays down that there shall be a House Committee appointed of which one member is ex officio, the Deputy President, and to which two members are appointed by the President and six are elected. It is true that the House can say: we do not choose to elect. But that could not bring the House Committee to an end. The House Committee will continue to function without the six elected members."

Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU :—"The object with which I move this adjournment motion is simply to bring to the knowledge of the House the grievances of the members of the House Committee and, as has been expressed by many hon. Members, the Government have not come forward with any real sympathy towards our grievances."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"That is hardly a point of personal explanation, Sir. My position is this. I am moving this resolution, not as suggested, as the Home Member, but merely as the leader of the House and at the request of the President. I have no knowledge of the merits of the case, nor did I in the least expect that there would be a discussion on this purely formal motion. If we are going to develop Parliamentary conventions here, it would have been far more in accordance with such conventions that some kind of notice should be given to me that the motion

3rd February 1925]

[Sir Arthur Knapp]

would be opposed. My position is really a formal one. The House, by the insertion of a Standing Order of its own, has desired that there should be six elected members, and that the House should be given an opportunity of electing them. It is in order to give the House the opportunity of carrying out its own Standing Order that I have had to propose this motion. If the House does not wish to elect the members, as I have pointed out, the House Committee will nevertheless continue to exist. If my hon. Friend's object is to abolish the House Committee, I am afraid this is not the way of doing it. The only way is to abolish the Standing Order."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I did not want to take part in this debate, but I have been provoked to make a speech in support of this proposition. My hon. Friend Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar, as well as the hon. the Home Member, have said that the Standing Order requires that a House Committee *shall* be appointed. We think that it shall not be appointed and we are satisfied that under the circumstances it shall not be appointed. But if the Government insist upon having a committee of three members, by all means let them have one."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" May I rise to make one personal explanation, Sir? It is not a question of Government desiring anything. It is a question of the House's Standing Order requiring it. I think I may go so far as to say that if Government were asked whether they wish to press as Government for the appointment of a House Committee, we should probably say 'no'."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Unfortunately, the hon. the Leader of the House has no mind to satisfy us. The Government could have easily satisfied us by saying that by all means out of the 16 crores that they are spending they would spare Rs. 5,000 for the House Committee. The request has been made by member after member and a number of grievances have been mentioned. All the grievances cannot be remedied even if the Government gives us one lakh. We will for the present be satisfied, in due consideration of the stringent financial conditions, with a pittance of Rupees 5,000. We are wasting lakhs of rupees for various other objects. And even if the Finance Committee or even the Council refuses sanction, the Governor certifies. And yet the hon. the Law Member says that he is prepared to do everything for us, but only he would not say a word that the amount would be provided for. The hon. Member, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, has come down from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 5,000 although he has no authority to do so. We thought that even Rs. 10,000 would be but a small sum, but even when that has been brought down to Rs. 5,000, the Government through their spokesmen, the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Leader of the House, are not inclined to favour our demand."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Let me venture to utter a word of complaint. Does the hon. Member from Coimbatore think that after I heard the hon. Member from Malabar, I was entitled at once to say : we shall bring in Rs. 5,000 in the budget? If so, he is not aware of the difficulties of a Member of the Government in making provisions even of two or three thousands in the budget, what difficulties there are in passing through the sieve of the Finance Committee, the hon. the Finance Member, and the Finance Department. All that I can say is that I shall bear in mind

[Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar] [3rd February 1925]

what has fallen from hon. Members here and see whether the Government can allot any sum in the budget or not. I can only do that. But to promise that sum is beyond the province or jurisdiction of a Member of the Government."

Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU:—"I hope, Sir, that as a result of our speeches the hon. the Finance Member will come to our rescue."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I will repeat carefully what I said. The hon. the Law Member is the spokesman of the Government and on both sides of him are the other hon. Members of Government. He can as well consult them, the Finance Member and the Finance Secretary, whether this paltry sum could be provided for. As for the Finance Committee, we know, Sir, there is no difficulty at all when the Government want to spend for our own objects. The Government want to raise their reserves from one to two lakhs and they are going to bring in a number of new schemes costing lakhs and lakhs. All these are being sanctioned by the Finance Committee and, even if the Committee refuses, the Government say that the resolutions of the Committee are not binding; even if the Council refuses sanction, there is His Excellency the Governor to certify the grant. All that can be done and is done by the happy family of seven Members. All that my hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, wants is a fair understanding on the Government side that they will put the amount in the budget. The hon. the Home Member who is equally responsible as the spokesman of the Government here said that they would leave it to the House whether it would work out its own Standing Order and in spirit he said that he would not give any amount."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I have made no reference whatever to the question whether I would or would not give a grant. I was only asking as Leader of the House whether the House did or did not wish to carry out its own Standing Order."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Probably the hon. the Leader of the House did not catch my idea. What I was saying was that in spirit he was not prepared to give us anything. That was at any rate the spirit of his reply. I am very glad, Sir, that some Members of the Ministerial side spoke of non-co-operation to-day. I am a co-operator generally, but, whenever absolutely necessary, a non-co-operator. What surprised me most was that the hon. the Leader of the House should say that if hon. Members wanted to non-co-operate with the Government, they would non-co-operate with them and have the Committee with the three members. I do not know if the Deputy President will attend the meeting. Probably he will resign his Deputy Presidentship, or will strike and would not attend the meetings, and I do not know what the two people nominated by the President will be able to do. They can in all probability taste a cup of tea at the lunch room and satisfy themselves. There is no use of complying with the Standing Order. The Standing Order is there. All that we say is that the Standing Orders and the Acts are not satisfactory. They are defective. Now there is absolutely no harm in having this motion adjourned. As for the Finance Committee, it is going to sit this evening, and if the proposal is placed before them, if I can speak for the other Members of the Committee, I shall say that it will be unanimously passed. Of course, I cannot speak for the President

3rd February 1925] [Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar]

of the Finance Committee who is a Member of Government. So, till then, we will have a short adjournment and let the Government satisfy themselves whether this amount is necessary.

3-15 p.m. "And then we will be satisfied, Sir, that, after all, a little of our recommendation is sometimes heeded. I do not think that we care for this Rs. 5,000. It is absolutely useless. We want either the full convenience or no convenience at all. I know we must arrange for our own luxuries. The hon. Member, Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar, said that himself and some others had to go two or three miles for lunch, but I may say that some of us have to go without lunch, as there is one advisory committee meeting at 1 o'clock and another at 2 or 3. Some members had to go without lunch yesterday, because on non-Council days no lunch is supplied at any cost, and unless we go and find ourselves under the obligation of some Minister or some other officer, we must starve. We are prepared to starve, but all that I say is that under the circumstances I would appeal to the Government to agree to this resolution or suggestion. We have adjourned the consideration of the business regarding the House Committee till half-past two to-day, and there is no reason why we should not adjourn it for a few days. Let the Government accept the motion and let us go on smoothly, especially on the auspicious day on which you, Sir, have been elected. So on this day let there be no non-co-operation or friction. Let the Government consider this matter seriously."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Do I understand my hon. Friend to say that the motion is to adjourn this matter for a few days? I am afraid the Mover proposed the adjournment not for a few days but till after the Budget."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"If that will satisfy our friends, I have no objection."

Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU:—"I said that it should be adjourned till just after the introduction of the Budget."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Sir, may I suggest that the amendment be put in writing if it is going to be pressed?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I understand that the Budget will be presented on the 2nd March."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"The discussion of the Budget will not terminate before the end of March, in which case we may have no opportunity of taking up this matter."

Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU:—"My motion is that it should be adjourned till the introduction of the Budget."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Probably to give the Government an opportunity of making some provision in the Budget? Is that the idea?"

Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU:—"Yes, Sir, that is the idea."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Sir, I may say just a few words on this motion. I think there are some objections to giving a lump grant of Rs. 5,000 without details. I do not think it will be approved of by the country generally, if the House Committee decide to spend that amount in providing Members with free tiffins or free quarters when they visit the

[Mr. R. A. Graham]

[3rd February 1925]

Council Chamber. Some complaints have been made which, I think, could quite justly be made to the House Committee. It is the House Committee, I think, which ought to have the control of the catering for Members, but the Members must not expect to have everything done for them free of cost."

VOICES :—" Nobody wanted to have them free."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" If we have some definite proposals as to what the money is wanted for, I do not see why it should not be possible to provide some money in the Budget."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—" Sir, I have been the President of this House Committee for the last four years (laughter). The hon. the Law Member knows that he has not been able to carry out any of the recommendations of the House Committee all these years. I wish he could point out one or two substantial things which he has done according to the recommendations of the House Committee. As regards the hon. the Finance Member's objections, I may point out that we wanted Rs. 5,000 not for free lunches or free dinners (laughter)."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" I do not know the purposes or object for which this Rs. 5,000 is asked."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—" We have pointed out why we wanted that amount to be placed at the disposal of the House Committee. The resolutions of the House Committee are there and we communicated them to Government, but no action is taken. That shows that the hon. Members on the Treasury Bench do not consider it worth while reading the recommendations of the House Committee. It becomes more or less general that hon. Members of the House Committee do not attend the meetings of the Committee at all, when I go and sit there with the Secretary. What is the use of the Committee? We meet and make recommendations, but nobody takes notice of them. But being ex officio President of the Committee, I have no other alternative but to sit there (laughter). Then we went and waited in deputation on the hon. the Law Member. I do not know the answers he gave then, but I think he said he would sympathetically consider the matter; but nothing has been done (laughter)."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I am afraid the hon. the Deputy President suffers from the disadvantage, if disadvantage it be, of not having been here when I was reading out from a long list just now; but from one point of view, I think I may satisfy his apprehensions. He said that the details were given by the House Committee. I think as President of that Committee he has overlooked that the only detail that we got was that the sum of Rs. 5,000 be placed at the disposal of the House Committee for such use as they might consider necessary for carrying out their resolutions."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—" I think, Sir, that here we have got all the hon. Members of this House composing that Committee and also its President, and we can give the Committee some discretion to spend the amount to the best advantage of the House. Cannot the Government entrust us with Rs. 5,000? There are many details which need not be furnished to the hon. the Finance Member. We have discussed the matters

3rd February 1925] [Mr. P. Kesava Pillai]

and we want Rs. 5,000 and we will spend that amount to the best advantage of hon. Members. I may assure you that no free lunches are contemplated." (Laughter.)

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" May I explain, Sir, that I just wanted to know in some detail what the money is for ? "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Does the hon. Mover of the amendment press it, that is, that the consideration of this matter be adjourned until after the presentation of the Budget, which is expected to be presented on the 2nd March ? "

Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU :—" Yes, Sir."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" According to the notice already given, the presentation of the Budget has been fixed for the 28th of this month."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have since learnt that the Budget is going to be presented on the 2nd March."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" May I suggest, Sir, that the actual date of presentation of the Budget or the date to which the discussion should be adjourned is not a matter which need delay us, because having been put in the position as the Leader of the House of moving a formal motion, if a motion for its adjournment is made without notice, and if the House carries it, I have no intention of making the motion again."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" The idea of adjourning it till after presentation of the Budget is that some provision may be made for it in the Budget. If no provision is made, we can discuss it then again."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" From the Standing Order it seems to me that the Chairman himself may take action on it. It simply says that a House Committee shall be appointed, and it seems hardly suitable that a mere formality of this kind should be converted into an issue against the Government, without notice."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Sir, at one stage of the debate I thought that the object of the Mover of the amendment was only to impress on the Government the several grievances which the mufassal Members feel, but I am convinced on account of the attitude of the hon. Members representing Government that they have been consistently and persistently flouting the representations of the hon. the mufassal members. Speaker after speaker has requested the Government to extend to us a word of sympathy and promise that they would try to meet the requirements of hon. Members, and member after member of the Government has definitely stated to us that the Government are not going to look at this question from the point of view of hon. Members. Sir, we know how the Government interpret the Standing Orders. We know how they get over all technical difficulties to get grants passed by this House, and when we hon. Members of the House after a good deal of sacrifice and personal inconvenience attend the deliberations of the House and represent to you certain grievances under which we labour, though personally I feel no grievance belonging as I do to the City of Madras, it seems to me out of etiquette entirely to say 'We are not going to listen to your requirements.' It was only the hon. the Law Member who said that as far as possible the

[Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti] [3rd February 1925]

Government would consider the proposals of the House Committee. That was the only ray of hope we had, but even that ray of hope was extinguished by his second speech in which he said that as a Member of the Government he could not commit the Government to anything definite. We know, Sir, that all Government answers are indefinite, but we thought that in this small matter they would get over their ordinary bureaucratic temperament and assure us that our personal requirements at least would be considered. The last remark of the hon. the Home Member has given us no other alternative than to vote for this amendment, and if the hon. the Home Member does not care to bring forward this proposition, we shall not be the worse for it."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya:—"Sir, there seems to be some misunderstanding in this matter. The hon. the Law Member is willing to consider the question of the grant of Rs. 5,000 provided that, as far as possible, we give some details. From what has fallen from the hon. the Deputy President I do not think any details have been given to the Government, and to ask them to give Rs. 5,000 without giving any details is not just. So let us on our side promise to give them details for the expenditure as far as possible, in a vague way, if necessary, and let the Government on their side promise to consider sympathetically the question. In this way the whole question may be solved if the Chairman of the House Committee promises to give details in consultation with the members of the Committee for this expenditure of Rs. 5,000, and there will be absolutely no difficulty for the hon. the Law Member to come forward on the side of the Government and say 'I shall consider it provided the details are forthcoming'. This would solve the question and therefore we need not go into the question of non-co-operation of the one side of the House or the other."

* Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"Sir, I am afraid we have sacrificed both time and elegance and even decency in discussing this matter of purely creature comforts. I think this matter could very easily have been settled by a sort of private arrangement. When even greater matters like the election of the President of this House could be so settled ('Hear, hear'), I am so very sorry that two hon. Members of this House, one hon. Member from Malabar and even the Leader of the House should have tried to non-co-operate. The hon. Member from Malabar wanted to non-co-operate if Rs. 5,000 were not given and the Leader of the House wanted to non-co-operate if we pressed the amendment . . ."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"By way of personal explanation, may I say that what I wanted to be understood was that having been assigned this formal business as the Leader of the House, if the House does not wish to carry out its own Standing Orders, I do not propose to bring it up a second time. It is open to anybody on a future occasion to propose the election of members to this Committee."

* Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"I thought he said that it would not matter if the Leader of the House would not propose this motion. I am satisfied that this is a formal matter and that anybody can propose it. At any rate the House knows, and I hope the members of the Treasury Bench are convinced of, the difficulties which the mufassal Members are being put to. It is but common courtesy that the Government should have come forward with a

3rd February 1926]

[Mr. P. Anjaneyulu]

sort of promise that they would seriously think of doing something in the matter hereafter when the Budget is considered, to provide for this Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 2,000 or whatever may be required for the ordinary comforts of those Members that have very often to come down here from the mufassal. You know in Madras it is not generally possible to engage houses for short periods off and on, and it is but natural therefore that all of us should feel as one, in trying to see that something decent is done for hon. Members of this House. All ought to co-operate with one another and no one need non-co-operate in this matter."

The question that the item of business regarding House Committee as on the Agenda be adjourned till after the presentation of the Budget, that is about the 2nd March, was then put to the House and carried and the item was accordingly adjourned.

XI

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

3-30 p.m.

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" I beg to move :

' That with a view to the filling up of the vacancy caused by reason of the acceptance of an office under the Crown by Muhammad Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur and of his ceasing to be a Member of the Finance Committee in consequence, this Council do proceed to elect a member of the said Committee. '

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I second it."

The motion was put and carried.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have to fix the time up to which nominations of candidates should be sent to the Secretary with reference to regulation 2 of the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of single transferable vote. I fix 2 p.m. to-morrow the 4th February and nominations should be handed to the Secretary before that time."

XII

DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT FOR 1924-25.

Grant X.

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I make a demand for the following supplementary grant :—

' That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 35,000 under " 22-B. General Administration—Legislative Bodies—Provincial Legislative Councils " to meet the travelling allowance of members of the Legislative Council. '

" The circumstances under which I move the grant are as follows. Against the allotment of one lakh provided for in the budget a sum of Rs. 73,185 has been spent up to October 1924. The balance is not sufficient to cover the expenditure under this item for the remaining part of the year. Against the allotment of Rs. 29,000 provided for in the budget under Bye-elections and Election courts a sum of Rs. 5,955 has been spent up to